



**STAYING SAFE:** Playing summer ball, lobbing tennis serves or crawling on the monkey bars has never been safer, thanks to a lightning alert system installed at six Highland parks — Sharp Athletic Complex, Main Square, Homestead, Sheppard, Markley and Meadows parks. The additional safety measure features devices that activate a siren/strobe light when lightning is detected within 10 miles of town.

# GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JUNE 2017

## IMPROVING HIGHLAND

Water is taking center stage this summer. While one freshwater project wraps up this month, a long-awaited stormwater overhaul is just getting started.

### MARTHA STREET PROJECT

For decades, Public Works Director John Bach has gauged the severity of a storm by driving over to Martha Street between the bike path and Southridge Elementary. “It was always Martha Street that flooded first,” Bach said. “We tried improvements over the last eight years, but nothing made the major impact we were hoping for.”

Grimmer Construction will begin work this month on a \$1.36 million fix designed to provide permanent relief to the neighborhood. The stormwater collection system will be revamped and a pump station built at Southridge to move runoff more quickly into the Cady Marsh Ditch. The project is expected to be completed this year. 🐦

### WHAT'S NEXT?

A water main replacement on Grace between LaPorte and Grand avenues and installation of a new water line connecting Brantwood and the Meadows.

### NEW WATER MAIN

Water main replacement along Kennedy Avenue between 45th and 100th streets is expected to be completed and traffic patterns returned to normal by mid-June. The project will provide better water service to residents of Lakeside and is the final leg of a water main replacement program that began in 2015.

“This old pipe suffered a series of bad breaks,” Public Works Director John Bach said. “We made it a priority in anticipation of resurfacing Kennedy next year.” 🐦



Heather, Cade and Joe Peterson are proud of the Little Free Library they established on southeast side of town.

## COUPLE BUILDS NEW LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

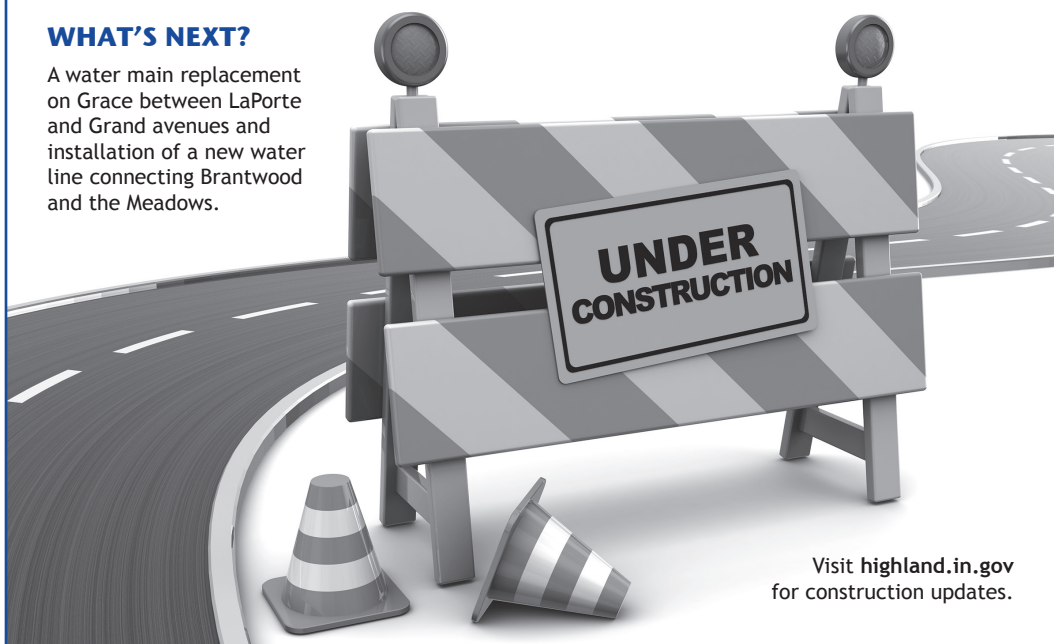
A month after opening its small aqua doors, Highland's only Little Free Library is already generating a buzz on 41st Street.

“I saw my first little library when I took my son Cade for a walk in his stroller,” Heather Peterson said. “Information online gave me a place to start to get our own library in our town. My husband Joe volunteered to build it.”

Millions of books are exchanged each year around the globe through the national Little Free Library program.

“I go every day to check to make sure there are always books for every age,” she said. “I think we found the perfect spot near the bike path and the high school. It makes us happy when we see people using the little library.” 🐦

**INFO:** You can friend Little Free Library Charter 44702 on Facebook. Join the conversation or post a pic!



Visit [highland.in.gov](http://highland.in.gov) for construction updates.



## BIKE PATH CLOSURES

A NIPSCO project to upgrade its utility infrastructure is impacting a section of the bike path between Highway and Grand avenues. The LaPorte Avenue section of the heavily traveled path has already been closed.

Rick Calinski, public affairs manager for NIPSCO, said the Highland/Munster portion of the project that began last year is the next step in a seven-year plan to replace 3.5 miles of underground natural gas transmission lines, some of which were originally laid in the 1940s.

“Just like roads and water lines, utility infrastructure has a useful life,” Calinski said.

In addition to new gas lines, NIPSCO will replace old circuits and modernize electrical substations to reduce outages in its service area.



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## NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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## WELCOME OUR NEW HIGHLAND POLICE OFFICERS!

Meet our new officers in blue! Madelline Melendez, Justin O'Malley and Luke Paprocki are academy certified. The three, who are taking the place of retiring officers, are already patrolling town neighborhoods with their field-training counterparts.



### MADELLINE MELENDEZ

Officer Madelline Melendez, 22, is a five-year veteran of the Indiana Army National Guard where she performs the responsibilities of a medic.



### JUSTIN O'MALLEY

Officer Justin O'Malley, 28, has a degree in Criminal Justice from Purdue University and two years with the East Chicago Police Department.



### LUKE PAPROCKI

Officer Luke Paprocki, 22, has a degree in Criminal Justice from Indiana University, where he served as a part-time campus police officer.

## REDEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR LAYS STRONG FOUNDATION FOR HIGHLAND TO BUILD UPON

Days before retirement, Cecile Petro was still scurrying around her office continuing the work she came to do – redevelop commercial corridors throughout town.

She arrived in 2005 as Highland's first full-time Redevelopment Director.

A dozen years later, Council President Dan Vassar said Petro is leaving the town better than she found it.

“Cecile created the downtown redevelopment area, but didn't stop there. She identified other areas in need of sprucing up and made it happen,” Vassar said. “Every sector of our town is better because of Cecile.”

Petro is proud of what has been accomplished and can't wait to see the town experience the boom she sees coming with a potentially large commercial development and a possible senior housing complex.

Her advice for the next director:

“Planning is important, but it is more important to be flexible with the realities you face,” Petro said. “Be a visionary, but be patient. Build consensus.”



## CAREER MILESTONES

### FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:

Redevelopment completed its 13th Facade Improvement Grant in January. To date, owners contributed \$428,000 to improvements while the town provided \$168,000 to assist.

**GATEWAY MONUMENT:** Cecile Petro seized the opportunity presented by a new bridge on Indianapolis Boulevard to galvanize resources to construct a sign that makes a statement.

**HIGHLAND MAIN STREET:** Formed in 2011, Petro attracted a cadre of individuals who wanted to add vitality to the town. What came next: pop-up galleries, car cruises, Highland Rookery, murals, sculptures, poet laureates and the Festival of the Trail that are all part of Petro's vision to set Highland apart.

**TAX ABATEMENT:** Eight businesses expanded or moved into Highland, spending more than \$18 million on improvements and adding 360 jobs.





Fifth grade students help plant trees on the Southridge school campus and along the Erie-Lackawanna Trail.

## TREE-MENDOUS EFFORT UNDERWAY IN HIGHLAND

There is some serious shade going on in town.

Saplings native to Indiana with names as exotic as blue beech and Ohio buckeye are replacing mature trees lost to the emerald ash borer.

With plenty of sunshine and ample rain, the 30 young trees will help rebuild the canopy while intercepting an estimated 45,000 gallons of stormwater each year.

Student volunteers from Merkley and Southridge elementary schools stepped in as arborists-in-the-making on planting day.

Planting sites include: 10 trees each on the east side of the Southridge property near Liable Road, near the Public Works garage on north Kennedy Avenue and on the bike path east of the high school tennis courts.

A grant from the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission and the U.S. Forest Service underwrote the cost of the trees. Crews from Highland Parks and Recreation will shepherd the young trees through the next several years until they are established.

"This program was created as a Great Lakes restoration initiative specific to the historic Lake Michigan basin," said Joe Exl, senior water resource planner at NIRPC. "Highland is one of six local communities to tap into the resource."

### COMMUNITREE PARTNERSHIP

Trees are essential in our lives. They help clean our air and water, reduce flooding, create habitat for wildlife and provide significant social and health benefits for people.

In northwest Indiana, the CommuniTree program grew out of the need to promote tree planting, after-planting care and maintenance of trees.

CommuniTree is supported by a partnership of community, industry and government agencies with a goal of creating a healthier and more diverse tree population.

The Town of Highland was successful in receiving 30 trees as a grant from the CommuniTree Partnership.

### SUMMER DAY CAMP

Join Parks and Recreation's experienced and energetic staff for a day camp filled with educational, social, cultural, environmental and physical activities.

**AGES:** 5-12 (completed kindergarten)

**WHEN:** 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays through **AUGUST 4.**

Pre-camp is from 7 to 8:30 a.m.

**CAMP FEES:** \$105/\$110 weekly \$25/\$30 daily

**PRE-CAMP FEES:** \$30/\$35 weekly \$6/\$7 daily

**WHERE:** While Lincoln Center will serve as the camp's main location, campers will also take walking trips to various locations around Highland including the Highland Public Library and the Wicker Park Splash Pad. There will also be opportunities to take three field trips around Chicago and Northwest Indiana.

**INFO:** Call (219) 838-0114.

### ATHLETICS GOLF OUTING

It's time to register for the Annual Highland Athletic Department golf outing. Proceeds benefit the entire Highland Athletic Department.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. shotgun start **JUNE 30**

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Golf Course

**FEES:** \$80 person/\$320 foursome includes golf, lunch and dinner.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** June 23

**INFO:** Contact Athletic Director Ryan Harrington at (219) 922-5611 or email [rharrington@highland.k12.in.us](mailto:rharrington@highland.k12.in.us).

### OLG RUMMAGE SALE

Hunt for gently-used gems at the summer rummage sale, hosted by the Our Lady of Grace Altar & Rosary Sodality. Stock up and save on Friday, when clothes are \$3 a bag!

**WHEN:** 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday, **JUNE 22** and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, **JUNE 23**

**WHERE:** Our Lady of Grace school cafeteria - north entrance

**INFO:** Call (219) 838-0395.

### POP-UP BOUTIQUE

Life Point Church is hosting a LuLaRoe pop-up boutique featuring uber comfortable, affordable and stylish clothing. Eight fashion consultants will be on hand to help shoppers find the perfect little number. Proceeds benefit the Life Point Church scholarship fund.

**WHEN:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **JUNE 24**

**WHERE:** Life Point Church, 9414 Kennedy Avenue

**INFO:** Call Debra at (219) 924-8936.



## ATTEND THE FESTIVAL

The festival kicks off at Main Square Park. Look around town for \$2 coupons.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 30 5-11 PM

<b>WRISTBANDS:</b>	\$25 from 5-9 PM
<b>5 - 6:15 PM</b>	Dirt Born
<b>6:30 - 8 PM</b>	Stop, Drop, Rewind
<b>8:30 - 11 PM</b>	Mellencougar

### SATURDAY, JULY 1 1-11 PM

<b>WRISTBANDS:</b>	\$25 from 1-5 PM
<b>12:45 - 1:40 PM</b>	To be announced
<b>1:45 - 2:30 PM</b>	Adam Gawlikowski
<b>2:30 - 4 PM</b>	5 O'Clock Shadow
<b>4 - 4:45 PM</b>	Police K-9 demo
<b>4:45 - 6:15 PM</b>	Highland Reign
<b>6:45 - 8:15 PM</b>	Got Issues
<b>8:45 - 11 PM</b>	High Performance Say Yes

### SUNDAY, JULY 2 1-11 PM

<b>WRISTBANDS:</b>	\$25 from 1-5 PM
<b>1:15-1:50 PM</b>	Magician Jerry Herzog
<b>2 - 4 PM</b>	Kids Konzert
<b>4:15 - 5 PM</b>	Wolfgang
<b>5:15 - 6:30 PM</b>	The Spaniels Forever
<b>7 - 8:15 PM</b>	Kenny James & Rave On
<b>8:45 - 11 PM</b>	Meet the Beatles

### MONDAY, JULY 3 5-11 PM

<b>WRISTBANDS:</b>	\$25 from 5-9 PM
<b>5 - 6:30 PM</b>	Lacey
<b>6:30 - 8:30 PM</b>	Race awards, parade
<b>9 - 10:30 PM</b>	Bad Sneakers

### TUESDAY, JULY 4 1-10 PM

<b>LAST BLAST:</b>	\$20 from 1-5 PM
<b>12:30 - 1:30 PM</b>	Sarah Denton
<b>1:30 - 3:30 PM</b>	Capernaum
<b>4 - 5 PM</b>	Jimmy Sarr Band
<b>6 - 9 PM</b>	Bob Mandarino's All-Star Blues Revue

**INFO:** Call Liz Breslin at (219) 923-9351.

## ENJOY THE FIREWORKS

Grab a blanket or your favorite lawn chair and join us for Highland's fireworks display at 9 p.m. July 4 at Homestead Park.

## KNOW THE RULES

Fireworks are allowed between 5 p.m. and two hours after sunset June 29 through July 9. The exception is July 4 between 10 a.m. and midnight. "Fireworks can be dangerous," Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said. "Take every precaution to stay safe."

## RUN THE MILE

The All-American Mile Run, sponsored by First Financial Bank, kicks off the Twilight Independence Day Parade. All participants receive a T-shirt. Entry forms are available at Lincoln Center. Register race day from 5 to 6:15 p.m. on Kennedy Avenue by the high school. Open to all age groups, the race begins at 6:30 p.m. July 3 at 40th Street and Kennedy Avenue. The fee is \$10 through July 1 and \$15 on race day.

**TOP PRIZES:** Awards for Top 3 in each age division. Males with the fastest sub 4-min mile and females with the fastest sub 5-min mile win a \$250 prize.

**INFO:** (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

## WATCH THE PARADE

This year's Fourth of July Twilight Parade begins at 6:30 p.m. July 3 at St. James the Less Catholic Church (45th and Kennedy), continues north on Kennedy to Highway Avenue and east along Highway to the park. A kiddie parade begins at 12:45 p.m. July 2 in the parking lot across from Traditions.

**INFO:** For parade info, call Erica Wolak at (219) 718-1610. For Kiddie Parade info, call Elmo Parlor (219) 923-8959.

## MIDWEEK MUSIC & MARKET

Shop local businesses at the midweek market from 4 to 8 p.m. and grab a comfy lawn chair for the live entertainment from 5 to 7 p.m. and the summer concert series from 7 to 9 p.m. Beer garden will be available. Here's the lineup:

- JUNE 7:** Almond Grove  
The Neverly Brothers - *rock 'n' roll*
- JUNE 14:** Michelle Josephine Velez  
Fast Eddie & The Corvettes - *50s-70s*
- JUNE 21:** Gerry Hundt  
Tropixplosion - *Caribbean*
- JULY 12:** Robert Rolfe Feddersen  
Mason Rivers - *country*
- JULY 19:** Dennis, Andrew, & Michelle  
New Odyssey - *variety*

**WHERE:** Main Square Park Gazebo

**NOTE:** In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be held in the Lincoln Center Fieldhouse. Please bring your own chair.

**INFO:** (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

## MOVIES IN THE PARK

Join us for an evening in the park to watch "The Secret Life of Pets" on the big screen. The concession stand will sell popcorn and fountain drinks. Bring a blanket or comfortable lawn chair. If it rains, movie will be held at Lincoln Center.

**WHEN:** Dusk Friday, **JUNE 16**

**WHERE:** Main Square Park

**INFO:** (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

## KIDS YOGA

Little yogis - ages 5-14 - will learn simple breathing techniques, yoga games, partner poses, songs/chants, crafts and relaxation. Please bring a towel, blanket or yoga mat.

**WHEN:** 5-5:55 p.m. Thursdays, **JUNE 15 - JULY 27**. Off July 6.

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center.

**FEE:** \$30 residents/ \$33 nonresidents

**DROP-IN TRIAL:** \$9 residents/ \$10 nonresidents

**ONLINE CODE:** 348027

**INFO:** (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.

## RED HOT TENNIS CAMP

Learn proper tennis techniques from instructors Steve and Ofelia. Steve is a longtime USPTR tennis pro at Match Point and former head coach at Calumet College. Ofelia is a USPTR tennis pro at Match Point, assistant girls tennis coach at Highland High and former assistant coach at Calumet College. Camp is open to boys and girls 5 to 18 years old. Dress comfortably and bring your own racquet.

**SESSION 1:** Monday - Thursday, **JUNE 12 - 30**

**SESSION 2:** Monday - Thursday, **JULY 10-28**

**WHEN:** 8 to 9:30 a.m. or 9:30 to 11 a.m.

**WHERE:** Highland High School tennis courts  
**FEE:** \$140/\$150 per 3 week session; \$95/\$105 per 2 week session; \$50/\$55 for 1 week.

**ONLINE CODE:** 160001

**INFO:** (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org.